

JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM

Purpose	<p>The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program¹ is designed to provide states with more funding and greater flexibility in carrying out programs designed to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ help children who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18 make the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency❑ help children who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18 receive the education, training, and services necessary to obtain employment❑ help children who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18 prepare for and enter postsecondary training and education institutions <hr/>
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ States receive an allocation based on the state's ratio of children in foster care compared to the total number of children in foster care nationwide – Iowa's SFY 02 budget reflects a \$1.134 M allocation❑ States must provide a 20% state match❑ States cannot use federal Chafee funds to supplant other funds available for the same general purposes <hr/>
Scope of Services	<p>Under the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, DHS funds the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Transition Planning Specialists in the field who assess youth readiness, and work with the youth's case managers and service providers to develop and implement transition plans for individual youth❑ Support for a Foster Care Youth Advisory Board❑ A state level staff person for program development, coordination with other state agencies (e.g., Workforce Development, Iowa Community Colleges, etc.), management, and evaluation of the program❑ The Iowa Aftercare Services Network – a group of 10 social service agencies organized by Youth and Shelter Services of Ames – to provide aftercare services for youth who have “aged out” of the foster care system❑ Development of tools to assist youth with the transition from foster care, including the Transition Information Packet – a resource binder covering key documents, education, employment, finances, housing, medical, transportation, resources, and personal information❑ Training for foster care youth, and for foster care providers <hr/>

¹ The program was formerly known as the Independent Living Initiative. Congress initially passed the Independent Living Initiative in 1987.